## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03166 251259Z ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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R 251137Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1080 INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN USINT BAGHDAD POUCH

SECRETKUWAIT 3166

**EXDIS** 

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, IZ, KU, PORG

SUBJECT: IRAQI/KUWAITI TALKS: CONCERN OVER THE COMMUNIST

THREAT

REF: (A) KUWAIT 2911 (B) KUWAIT 3053 (NOTAL)

- 1. DURING MEETING ARRANGED SPECIFICALLY TO DISCUSS RECENT IRAQI/KUWAITI TALKS HERE, MFA OFFICER MAY 25 WAS UNABLE TO TELL ME A THING ABOUT THEM. HOWEVER, FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAW MFA UNDERSECRETARY RASHID AL-RASHID TWO DAYS AGO, AND I DEBRIEFED HIM TODAY.
- 2. RASHID HAD REMARKED WITH SATISFACTION THAT THE IRAQIS WHILE HERE HAD SPELLED OUT THEIR CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT "COMMUNIST" THREATS TO THE SECURITY OF THE AREA. THEY HAD DWELT ON THE COUP D'ETAT IN KABUL AND ON CONTINUING UNREST IN IRAN AS INDICATIVE OF DANGERS POSED TO STATES OF THE AREA. RASHID HAD TOLD FRENCH AMBASSADOR THAT HE WAS NOT SURPRISED THAT THE IRAQIS SHARE KUWAITI CONCERNS ON THIS SUBJECT AT THIS TIME, BUT THAT HE WAS TRULY SURPRISED THE IRAQIS WERE SO CONCERNED AS TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH KUWAITIS. HE LEFT THE IMPRESSION THIS WAS UNPRECEDENTED SECRET

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FRANKNESS FROM IRAQI SIDE.

3. FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAID THAT RASHID HAD NOT MENTIONED THE HORN OF AFRICA AS INCLUDED IN THE IRAQI PRESENTATION OF AREAS IN WHICH DANGEROUS COMMUNIST INFLUENCE WAS AT WORK. GIVEN RASHID'S OWN CONCEPT OF THE PRESENT SITUATION AS ONE IN WHICH RADICAL/SOVIET PINCERS ARE CLOSING ON ARABIAN

PENINSULA, IT SEEMS TO ME CERTAIN THAT, ONCE IRAQIS BROACHED THEIR CONCERN, KUWAITIS MUST HAVE SPELLED OUT THEIR NOTIONS OF THE SOVIET/CUBAN THREAT AT WORK IN ETHIOPIA. SUTHERLAND

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: COMMUNISTS, THREATS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, MEETINGS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 25 may 1978 Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUWAIT03166
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 000

**Document Unique ID: 00** Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

**Expiration:** Film Number: D780221-0818 Format: TEL

From: KUWAIT **Handling Restrictions:** 

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780520/aaaaaqob.tel

Line Count: 66 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 59cdba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION SS

Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 KUWAIT 2911, 78 KUWAIT 3053

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 27 jun 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2575112 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: IRAQI/KUWAITI TALKS: CONCERN OVER THE COMMUNIST THREAT

TAGS: PEPR, PORG, IZ, KU

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/59cdba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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